



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Fabrice Vitry, Ana Pinto, Ivica Sekulovic
Serial Number: 10/001,479
Filed: November 11, 2001
For: LATCHING DEVICE
Art Unit: 3627
Examiner: (not known)
Attny Docket No: 283-01
Confirmation No: 1380

DECLARATION OF ALLEN RIBLETT

Commissioner Of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The undersigned, Allen Riblett, states and declares as follows:

1. I am a United States citizen and resident of Delaware. My office address is Southco, Inc., 210 North Brinton Lake Road, Concordville, Pennsylvania 19331. My office telephone is (610) 361-6321.
2. I am the Patent Coordinator for Southco, Inc. As patent coordinator: I supervise the monitoring of Southco inventions (inventions made by Southco employees); I supervise the preparation and filing of patent applications by outside patent counsel, including Paul & Paul, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; I supervise the Southco intellectual property portfolio (patents, trademarks, copyrights) of pending applications and issued registrations and patents; and I supervise the company's records relating to all intellectual property.
3. The above-cited patent application is directed to a LATCHING DEVICE invention which invention is the property of Southco, Inc. by virtue of the invention being made by payroll

employees working under an agreement, which gives the invention to Southco, Inc. This invention was made by three inventors: Fabrice Vitry, Ana Pinto, and Ivica Sekulovic.

4. These employee-inventors made this invention while working pursuant to an employee confidentiality agreement, in which each employee-inventor promised to execute whatever documents necessary to perfect a patent application or patent applications and to execute an assignment of the invention to Southco, Inc.
5. Attached as Exhibit "A" hereto is a photocopy of the Intellectual Property Agreement executed by Ivica Sekulovic.
6. Ivica Sekulovic was employed by Southco, Inc., at its Worcester, United Kingdom, facilities from about May 28, 1999 to August 3, 2001, and participated in the making of the subject invention while an employee-inventor of Southco, Inc. Mr. Sekulovic has a duty to execute whatever documents are necessary to perfect all patent applications this invention and to secure the recording of the title to this invention to Southco, Inc.
7. The above-recited application was filed under 35 USC 119(e) citing five (5) Southco provisional applications, of which Ivica Sekulovic is the named inventor of one, that being provisional number 60/318,839.
8. The last known residence address Southco, Inc. has for Ivica Sekulovic is: 1A Raglan Street, Worcester, WR3 8AY, United Kingdom. Southco has no home telephone number. Mr. Sekulovic's last known e-mail is: isekulovic@latimertechnologies.co.uk.
9. Mr. Sekulovic left Southco on good terms and on information and belief thereafter began work for Latimer Technologies.
10. Southco has attempted several times to contact inventor Sekulovic in order to secure the execution of the Declaration and Power of Attorney by Mr. Sekulovic. The first attempt at contacting him was by overseas airmail addressed to his last known residence address. The mail was sent with proper postage on February 5, 2002. There has been no response. An e-

mail was sent to Mr. Sekulovic at his last known work e-mail address on May 14, 2002. There has been no response.

11. Southco has also attempted to contact Mr. Sekulovic with documents, by overnight carrier, DHL Worldwide Express. See the photocopy of airwaybill 8315578504 dated May 3, 2002 (Exhibit "B"), showing that delivery was unsuccessful. See report behind airwaybill (Exhibit "B") showing delivery attempts of May 7, May 8, and May 9, 2002. Cards left by the DHL carrier at the last known Ivica Sekulovic address have gone without response. See DHL report dated May 20, 2002 (Exhibit "C").

12. DHL Worldwide, United Kingdom offices were requested on May 21, 200 again to attempt delivery, and were added with information of Mr. Sekulovic's last known e-mail address and the street address, telephone number, and facsimile number of his last known employer (Exhibit "D").

13. All attempts to contact this inventor for the execution of the Declaration and Power of Attorney have been unsuccessful.

14. I have the authority from Southco, Inc. to execute a Declaration and Power of Attorney for inventor Ivica Sekulovic, in order to preserve Southco, Inc.'s valid proprietary interest in this invention, to preserve Southco, Inc.'s interest in the above-cited patent application, and to prevent this application from going abandoned for having missing parts.

15. I have authorized our patent counsel to prepare and file a petition under 35 USC 118.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date: 21 MAY 2002

Allen Riblett
(Allen Riblett, Patent Coordinator, Southco, Inc.)